

tranches in Peking, Tientsin, Hankow, and Shanghai. Merchants shortly afterwards raised 1,000,000 taels, other branches were opened at important points, and deposits began to be received.¹ A further increase of capital was proposed in 1908, by which the total should be 10,000,000 Haikwan taels (\$6,800,000), of which the government was to contribute half. The duration of the bank is for thirty years and it is substantially a state institution. All of its operations are under the control of the Board of Finance, it is entrusted with the public funds, and will make the arrangements for national loans. ISTew regulations regarding the issue of notes have been promulgated and it is intended ultimately to confer upon the bank exclusive privileges in this regard. A new institution has also been established to deal with the funds of the Board of Posts and Communications.²

The limitation of the field of the foreign banks substantially to exchange business was departed from only in the case of the Russo-Chinese Bank, which was granted a charter by the Russian Government in December, 1895, with the avowed object of ⁴ "transacting commercial operations in the East Asiatic countries." For this purpose the bank was given unlimited duration and was aided by both the Russian and Chinese Governments by contributions towards its capital. The open purpose of the Russian Government to avail itself of the influence of the bank to promote closer political association with China was shown by the authority given by the charter to engage in the collection of duties in the Empire of China and in transactions relating to the State Treasury; the coinage, with the authorization of the Chinese Government, of the country's money; payment of the interest on loans concluded by the Chinese Government; the acquisition of concessions for the construction of railways within the boundaries of China; and the establishment of telegraph lines."

Annual Report of the Director of the Mint,
1907, 218. : £/". 6*. Consular Reports, June 30,
1908, 8-9. ¹ Charter of the Russo-Chinese
Bank, 1904, n.